



United States Department of Agriculture



# Hiawatha Highlights

## As winter fades ...

Spring 2015

### Contents

◆ Grand Island 25th Anniversary	1
◆ TAP Analysis Update	2
◆ Camp 7 Fisheries Project	
◆ Graymont Mining	3
◆ Marquette Office & Greenhouse	
◆ Timber	
◆ Hanley Field Exchange	
◆ Calendar	4
◆ Are "Yew" Ready?	
◆ Parting Shots	

### ... Spring begins to seep in!

With the change in season, it seems an appropriate time to pass along an update on winter doings on the Forest. Natural resources managers know that every season has its particular focus. Winter is always a busy time of year for us Forest Service employees. Attached you'll find a few brief updates regarding Hiawatha National Forest topics that might interest you, along with some snippets and photos from our web media. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us for more information.

**Jo Reyer**

Forest Supervisor

## Grand Island NRA 25th Anniversary

### Celebrating

On May 17, 1990, Congress designated Grand Island National Recreation Area in recognition of the outstanding features of this Lake Superior gem. In 2015, we will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that momentous day, culminating with a public celebration of Grand Island Day on Saturday, August 8. We are working with the local community to mark this anniversary, and in the process we plan to recognize many people who helped make GINRA what it is today, including those who helped bring about the designation. We hope you'll plan to join us in the celebration, and we'll keep you in the loop as plans develop.



US Forest Service

Hiawatha National Forest - Your Great Lakes National Forest

## Efficiency and Effectiveness:

# Transportation Analysis Planning Update

## FOCUS on Camp 7 Fish Habitat

*Winter is a busy time for Forest Service workers. One recent project installed 14 fish "cribs" on the ice. Together, a multi-disciplinary crew hauled, drilled and spiked together 10 cords of hardwood logs and muscled 10,080 pounds of cement block out onto the ice to create the cribs. When the structures sink to the lake bottom, they provide much-needed cover and forage areas for smallmouth bass, walleye, bluegill and northern pike. In addition to benefiting wildlife, local anglers, families and tourists reap the benefits.*



## Subpart A

The TAP analysis is a study of the risks and benefits for visitors and the environment associated with the road system on the Hiawatha National Forest. The analysis, referred to as "Subpart A," is part of the implementation of the 2005 Travel Management Rule, 36 CFR 212. Subpart A will identify a road system that provides access for the public and forest management activities, minimizes environmental impacts, and can be maintained within budget constraints.

As part of the process:

- We gathered public input (May-August 2014) through public open houses, letters and online comments. Public involvement in the Travel Analysis Process (TAP) on the Hiawatha included a 3-month public input period last summer and 4 open houses (one on each of the Ranger Districts). The process was televised on Channel 6, and an interview about the purpose of the TAP was broadcast on Trails and Tales Outdoor Radio. The process was also presented to the Tribes in Hannahville, Bay Mills Tribe, and Sault Ste. Marie for input. 61 comments were received.
- The internal data evaluation looking at risks and benefits of individual roads is almost complete.

- A recommendation report will be completed and presented to the public this summer before the internal September 31st deadline.
- The information gathered in the Study will be used in the future to develop site-specific proposals to help us achieve a minimum road system that serves the needs of the public and the Forest Service at a cost we can afford to maintain over time. The Subpart A analysis is an information-gathering study, not a decision-making process.

We'll be sure to notify you when our recommendation report is ready. If you have questions in the meantime, feel free to contact us.





*Last year, the Hiawatha National Forest cut 40 mmbf. This fiscal year, we are planned to cut 45 mmbf.*

## Managing Ecosystems Across Boundaries:

### Graymont Mining

On February 6, the State of Michigan announced it has approved Graymont's application; for more information on the State project, visit their Graymont project page.

At this point, the US Forest Service has not received a proposal from Graymont for mining or a land exchange, however we have been in

communication with the company and it does seem possible that we will receive a land exchange proposal. If we receive a proposal of any kind, we anticipate gathering public input about the options. Furthermore, an environmental analysis, including additional public involvement, would be required to evaluate any proposed action.

### Marquette Office & Greenhouse

*The US Forest Service owns several buildings on ~6.5 acres in the city of Marquette. The facility currently houses our native plants greenhouse program, which receives strong community and university involvement. The City of Marquette, which has a reversionary clause in the property deed, has expressed recently urgent interest in regaining ownership of the acreage as a result of the Duke Life Point Hospital project. The City finds itself under a tight timeline and sees the site as an ideal location for its new Municipal facility. The Forest is considering opportunities to make this a win-win for the agency, the City and the public. As part of its ongoing efforts to reduce facilities expenses, the Forest has been considering optional means and locations for operation of the native plants greenhouse program.*

### FOCUS on Hanley Field Exchange

Hiawatha National Forest is working with Alger County Commissioners and City of Munising on a land exchange for Hanley Air Field. Alger County currently operates the Hanley Field under special use permit with the Forest. A 3-way exchange would transfer FS lands to the county, which the parties see as a "win-win-win" for the Forest Service, Alger County and the City of Munising. We anticipate the final appraisals will be completed yet this spring. Then the realty package will be prepared for regional review and congressional oversight. The exchange could be completed by the end of the calendar year.

## Hiawatha National Forest

820 Rains Drive  
Gladstone, MI 49837



## Calendar

Date	Event
Apr 26 - May 1	Hill Visits
May 15	Hiawatha Friends Meeting
Summer	TAP Study Open Houses (TBD)
July 24	Children's Forest Painting Dedication
August 7	GI25 Recognition Event
August 8	Grand Island Day
August 20-22	Forest at UP State Fair
Fall	Release of TAP Study (before 9/30)

(Dates subject to change)

## Parting Shots



**Above left:** Grand Island's East Channel Light is the the NRA's most-viewed lighthouse.



**Above right:** Hiawatha NF provides six groomed XC ski trail sought after by local residents and tourists. For more info [visit our webpage](#).



**Left:** Winter logging operations protect fragile soils while contributing to local economies.



**Below Left:** 375 miles of designated snowmobile trails provide winter recreation and tourism.

### Questions? Contact us!

Jo Reyer, Forest Supervisor, 906-428-5839

Janel Crooks, Public Affairs Officer, 906-428-5829

### Are "Yew" Ready?!

*The winter field season is just as busy as summer. Here we see Hiawatha National Forest's staffer in the process of uncovering and cutting yew shoots to be rooted by the USFS's Toumey Nursery. Yew, a small woody shrub, is used by wildlife as forage. Once the seedlings are rooted, they will be returned to the Hiawatha for planting.*

